

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4 ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER 61 FORSYTH STREET ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 4, 2015

Aileen Boucle, AICP Intermodal Systems Development Manager Florida Department of Transportation 1000 NW 111th Avenue, Room 6111-A Miami, Florida 33172

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Subject:

SR 997/SW 177th Avenue/Krome Avenue South. Dade County, Florida, Final

Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD)

Financial Project Number: 249614-4-22-01 Docket Number: FHWA-FLA-EIS-13-01-F

Dear Ms. Boucle:

Thank you for your interagency coordination efforts on a proposed project. Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the US EPA Region 4 has evaluated the consequences of the FDOT/FHWA proposal to construct roadway improvements for SR 997/Krome Avenue, in Dade County, Florida.

This project proposes roadway and safety improvements along a ten-mile segment of SR 9971SW 177th Avenue/Krome Avenue from SW 296111 Street (Avocado Drive) to SW 136111 Street (Howard Drive) in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The existing facility is a two-lane undivided rural roadway. The proposed action is to improve safety by providing four-lane divided sections, additional capacity, and implementing access management criteria.

The USEPA agrees with the addition of the minimization treatment at certain segments as means of minimizing impacts of the selected Alternative 5. The Recommended Alternative includes a rural section, a suburban section and a minimization treatment at the Miami-Dade County EEL Owaissa Bauer Pineland Preserve Addition No. 1 Site; as stated in section 6.0 of the subject document.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEIS/ROD. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Maher Budeir at (404) 562-9514 or budeir.maher@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief NEPA Program Office

cc: James Christian, Division Administrator, FHWA, Florida Division Office